

## TALK GIVEN TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LAKE FAIRLEE ASSOCIATION

LFA

7/27/19

Dale Gephart

\*\*\* Our lake is a teacher about the web of life... and we are learning all the time.

We in the Lake Fairlee Association are called to be stewards of the lake.

\*\*\*Phosphorus is an essential nutrient for all animal and plant life. In itself it is harmless. We have been monitoring phosphate levels & other water quality measures for years.

However, Phosphate levels in the lake are slowly going up and have exceeded the point where we are now at risk for unwanted algae blooms and invasive plants

We do not know why we have too much phosphorus in our lake

\*\*\*The Lake Fairlee Association has taken responsibility for addressing this issue in the same manner as we have come to understand and control Milfoil.

Therefore we have created a subcommittee to take action in dealing with this problem, which our poor score card represents. So far we have 5 members and are looking for someone who lives in Fairlee.

\*\*\*We can find many hypotheses for why our lake chemistry is changing. We will need to study as many reasons as we can.

The changes are slow and numbers still variable.

Fortunately we are already receiving assistance from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation.

\*\*\*The LFA sub committee has met once and is actively recruiting for either committee members or interested volunteers to help study the lake.

The minutes of the first meeting are available.

We will meet with Danielle Owszarski from the Vermont Department of Environment Conservation (VDEC) in the next three weeks to tour the lake and begin sampling and monitoring.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

We need a boat to tour the lake with 3 folks from the VDEC.

We can Learn about a VDEC program called LAKEWISE, in which land owners individually asses their own property and, IF YOU PASS, apply for a commendation from the state (a sign)

Think about your own septic system. How old is it. Is there any way to know if it failing?

NO MATTER WHAT THE PHOSPHATE LEVELS ARE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE ALL KNOW AND FOLLOW THE BEST PRACTICES OF CARE OF ----WATERFRONT, WATERSHED AND ROAD MAINTENANCES.

Thank you

Dale Gephart